(a) whether draft code content submitted by Indian Broadcasting Federation to Government for its approval has categorized television programmes into two classes, one for general viewing and other for restricted viewing;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has agreed that there is an urgent need for content regulation in electronic media;

(c) whether Broadcasters have opposed Government's move to curb electronic media and have written to the Prime Minister;

(d) if so, whether the Prime Minister has put T.V. content regulations on hold; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recognising the need for content regulation in the electronic media, the Government had constituted a Committee for reviewing the Programme and Advertising Codes (Content Code) prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of the existing codes. The Committee has submitted its Report in the form of Draft Content Code 2008 on 5.3.2008, which is placed on the website of the Ministry ***www.mib.nic.in*** for wider stakeholder consultation.

(c) to (e) A section of broadcasters has opposed regulation by the Government. The Government has given a commitment that any changes in the Cable Television Network rules would be taken up for finalisation only after the widest possible consultation with all concerned stakeholders and eliciting the different points of view on the proposed changes. No time frame has been fixed for the same.

Programmes in Santhali language

1102. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take a policy decision to broadcast the programmes in Santhali language by Radio and T.V. (Government and Private) in the country;

(b) whether any programme in Santhali language in the country is being broadcast on T.V. and Radio, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for not telecasting any programmes in the language of Santhali which is a tribal language; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati have informed that various Doordarshan

Kendras and AIR Stations broadcast Santhali programmes in different formats, details of which are as follows:—

Doordarshan

Name of the Kendra	Time/duration of programme
DDK, Kolkata	Every Saturday at 5.05 P.M. for 25 mts. and repeated every Thursday, 8.30 A.M.
DDK, Bhubaneswar	Weekly for 25 mts.
DDK, Ranchi	Santhali folk song and dance from time to time approximately for 12 to 15 minutes fortnightly.

All India Radio

Station	Time/duration of programme
AIR, Kolkata	06.05 p.m. to 06.35 p.m. — for 30 mts daily including Santhali news bulletin. Drama — twice a month on 2nd and 4th Saturday at 5.30 p.m. for 30 mts.
AIR, Baripada	06.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. — Santhali music in the chunk of Adivasi Sangeet — daily for 30 mts.
	07.25 a.m. to 07.55 a.m. — on Every Thursday/Friday/Saturday for 30 mts
AIR, Keonjhar	06.30 p.m. to 6.40 p.m. — Friday and Tuesday for 10 mts.
AIR, Ranchi	07.40 p.m. to 07.45 p.m. and 07.20 p.m. to 07.40 p.m. Santhali news at 07.40 p.m. for 5 mts (originated) and Santhali Composite Programme on Thursday and Saturday at 07.20 p.m. for 20 mts.
AIR, Chaibasa	07.40 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. — for 20 mts on Tuesday and Saturday
AIR, Bhagalpur	08.40 a.m. to 8.50 a.m. Daily Santhali Music for 10 mts.
AIR, Purnia	0.75 p.m. to 08.00 p.m. — Wednesday — Santhali Music for 15 mts.

In so far as Private Channels are concerned, Government does not interfere in their programme content and they have to abide with the Programme and Advertising Codes of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.